

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2001
Alaska Building, 13th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Marc Avni, Martha Becker, Gabe Cohen, Lee Gaylor, Miriam Horrigan, ,
Murray Meld, Will Parry, Cecil Pollard, Mae Shields, Cherie Sigrist, Helen
Spencer, Leo Ward, Suzanne Wiley, Fred Yee
Absent: Suzanne Gehring, Greg Stack
Excused: Meryl Abramson, Timmie Faghin, Juanita Grant, Karen Sluiter, Peter
Steinbrueck

STAFF: Karen Brewer, Selina Chow, Rosemary Cunningham, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Suzanne
Simmons, Linda Wells, Karen Winston, Linda Woodall,

GUESTS: Pat Carroll, Cleo Corcoran

Action Summary

MSP Ward/Spencer AC support SB 5994 (for the purpose of opening up the I-601 formula)

Minutes

Murray Meld, Chair convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. Minutes were approved as mailed.

Murray introduced ***Pat Carroll & Cleo Corcoran*** as new appointees by Mayor Schell. The last stage of their confirmation by the City Council is expected to happen before our April Meeting.

Murray also explained, for the benefit of the new members, that any missed monthly attendance at an Advisory Council meeting is noted in the minutes as "excused" when the member calls in their absence before the meeting - and noted as "absent" if they do not call in.

Public Comment on Supplemental Allocations

No one appeared before the Council to comment on the Supplemental Allocation

Karen Winston informed the Council that she received written comment supporting the family caregiving funding allocation.

At this point there is approximately \$500,000 available. Distribution has been recommended in the following way: 35% proposed for respite in the family caregivers program, 10% proposed for grandparents caring for grandchildren and 55 % proposed for family paid caregiver support & assistance.

Murray announced that the Resolution for extension of AC terms has been presented to, and approved by, the sponsors. Each of the sponsors has now signed the Resolution. Copies were given to each AC member for their notebooks.

** **NOTE:** Murray also announced that the Nominating Committee will be selected at the AC meeting in April and asked members to come prepared to select this committee.*

Committee Reports:

Health Care Task Force Report: *Linda Wells* distributed a copy of the task force minutes and thanked **Fred Yee** for acting as chair for the March task force meeting in the absence of Karen Sluiter. The meeting focused on proposed prescription drugs legislation. The task force decided to meet with the Outreach & Advocacy Committee. Together they will support the effort of proposed legislation, with the caveat that: 1) the legislation allow all people to have access to prescription drugs at an affordable cost (this implies that no means test should be used in determining who is eligible) and, 2) the legislation must not be detrimental to our local pharmacies by requiring them to shoulder the burden of cost.

** **NOTE:** The Health Care Task Force invited the Housing Task Force and Outreach & Advocacy Committee to attend the next Health Care Task Force meeting on April 3, at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the impacts of the current energy crisis.*

Housing Task Force Report: *Rosemary Cunningham* announced that the Universal Design Brown Bag has been tentatively rescheduled for noon on April 18. The task force met with Michael Fancher, a Snohomish architect, and discussed how to encourage architects and contractors to promote Universal Design concepts. Acknowledging this will require some time, the architect suggested: 1) having several low cost workshops where continuing education units can be acquired, and 2) provide funding for pilot projects where builders can get hands-on experience with methods and designs that can be readily and easily used.

When asked how Universal Design became a focus for the housing task force, Rosemary explained that because no money is available to ADS for housing issues, and because the task force members have such overwhelming variety of potential issues, the desire to have an impact became the direction of focus. Application of universal design principles -where ever possible - offered potential for a lasting impact. The task force decided their first step was to educate themselves, then architects, builders and contractors, on the principles of universal design. **Helen Spencer** suggested that universal design should also have some influence modular design in prefabricated housing. Rosemary said she will take the suggestion back to the Task Force.

Will Parry requested that the task force also review the legislative agenda of the Washington Low Income Housing Network and their fight for an increase in the Housing Trust Fund – allowing non profit developers to operate more widely & effectively. **Pat Carroll** requested that the task force look into the disposition of the Morrison Hotel, which, at this time, extremely critical to available housing in the city. Through the course of this discussion, the AC came to an agreement that a balance of focus is needed - between being proactive in the long-term changes of universal design and active support in the critical, time-sensitive issues of housing in the city

Murray noted that since both task forces and committees determine their own focus and agendas, participation in a committee or task force is the best way to have influence in the developing of agendas and focus. He explained the AC only becomes involved when the committee/task force needs or does something that implicates the whole Council.

Any suggestion members may have can be formally referred to a committee or task force, by a motion to, and passed by, the AC. Murray also suggested that members e-mail each other regarding issues that they feel should be addressed by a particular committee or task force. Murray also noted that all committees (except **Planning & Allocation**) are open to everyone in the community. He encouraged AC members to invite anyone they know who may be interested in the issues being discussed.

Rosemary commented that Orientation Training will include descriptions of what each committee is focusing on and why. **NOTE: (The first Orientation is scheduled for April 5)**

Outreach & Advocacy Report: **Gabe Cohen** said the committee followed up on February's AC recommendations and he passed out copies of a letter that was sent to Gov. Locke. The letter, signed by **Murray, Gabe** and **Timmie Faghin**, commended the Governor on his comments at Senior Lobby Day and thanked him for his support in three key Advisory Council objectives: increasing home care worker wages, protecting long-term care funding and making prescription drug available to seniors without insurance coverage.

Gabe also commended Murray for his letter to the editor (PI - March 1, 2001) regarding the suffocating formula of I-601. Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Wells positively responded to Murray's letter with her own letter to the editor (PI - March 5). Outreach and Advocacy Committee recommended support of SB5994 (Kohl-Welles) which recognizes the that the current factors of the I-601 formula (population and inflation growth) are stilted in determining the level of funding for services without including the growth of the economy.

At the request of Helen Spencer, Murray expressed his thoughts about dealing with the budget crunch. Instead of forcing interest groups to compete for funds, increase the funding available by raising the lid. If the economy grows, the size of the pie increases. If the economy tightens, the size of the pie would shrink. In this scenario the rise in the general population and the rise in the cost of living would continue to be general factors of I-601, but the effect would not be as devastating as one might suppose. Admittedly, increasing taxes or changing I-601 has legislators very wary. But adding economic health to the formula makes a more positive & comprehensive approach. Will agreed that support of the bill would cause the formula of I-601 to be open to examination, but cautioned that this bill is not necessarily a panacea. He stated that forcing any formula on legislators is erosion of representative government.

MSP Leo/Helen unanimous - AC support SB 5994 (for the purpose of opening up the I-601 formula)

Alert: Gabe noted that the \$13 million allocated under the Senior Citizens Service Act, to W4A (of which \$3 million is ADS discretionary money) may be in danger because of the shortage of funds. Also the eligibility requirements for COPES may be severely tightened.

Legislative folders were passed out with valuable information including: legislative district maps, legislators addresses, aides, phone #s, committee assignments, leadership lists. Plus, web page locations are at the bottom of many of the pages for those who wish to search out even more information.

March 21st Lobby Day in Olympia is tentative at this point because of the earthquake problems still hampering Olympia. ADS staff will keep AC members informed of any changes that may come up. It's a very rewarding and informative day and it's hoped that many will be able to attend. Vans will be provided for those needing rides and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Miriam Horrigan, to the amusement of the AC, reported that the February **P & A** meeting was all above board but the committee ended up under the table.

Linda Woodall, liaison for United Way, passed out the mission statement of United Way and gave a short, interesting history of United Way. Originally, part of the conditions required by the Older Americans Act (OAA) was a volunteer component. In 1967 United Way had an older adults advisory committee, which fit this OAA requirement perfectly, and this evolved into United Way becoming the third sponsor of the ADS Advisory Council.

Linda also relayed some of her experiences lobbying in Olympia and offered her encouragement of the Council to go to Olympia for W4A Lobby Day. She said it's important to realize the real need for legislators to hear from their constituents regarding the tightness of the budget and for them to receive a reality check on the devastating cuts proposed for this year, (especially with the sudden unexpected additional costs caused by the earthquake).

Suzanne Simmons, liaison for King County is the singular staff for the King County Aging Program (which is part of the King County Department of Community and Human Services). The Aging Program budget has already been cut from \$1.3 million down to the current \$800,000. These monies support senior centers, senior rights, I & A, transportation, nutrition and adult day programs. This year, King County is looking at a potential \$40 million budget deficit. These cuts will come from discretionary funds (which fund the KC Aging Program). An evaluation will be conducted through April and public review will be allowed after that time. Suzanne will let the AC know when the draft becomes available so the AC can have input. She said the current expense fund is continually shrinking because of the loss of revenues that result from more and more unincorporated areas becoming incorporated. Suzanne will let the AC know the amount of the current expense fund and the amount of the total KC budget.

The Council then broke into two separate groups to continue last month's discussion on retreat follow-up: *Mission Statement and Relations, External/Internal and Organizational Tools*. (Attached)

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: April 13, 2001, Noon-2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 13th Fl. Conference Forum
618 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

Meryl Abramson, Secretary-Treasurer

Addendum

At the March 9, 2001 Advisory Council Meeting the AC split into two groups to continue last month's discussion on retreat follow-up. One group worked on developing an Advisory Council Mission Statement and the other group focused on Internal/External Relations and Organizational Tools.

The following are "draft" proposals produced by the two groups:

Mission Statement 1

The mission of the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services is to serve as a link between ADS and the community, by identifying the needs of this population, advocating for appropriate services to meet these needs, and promoting quality of life through independence and choice.

Mission Statement 2

The mission of the Seattle-King County Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services is to advocate for policies and services that promote quality of life, independence and choice for older people and adults with disabilities

Internal/External Relations and Organizational Tools

Notes from the AC organizational tools group.

1. Include an executive summary at the beginning of each set of AC minutes and task force and committee minutes. The two categories of information to be included are:
 - Decision made:
 - Action required: (what, who, when)
2. Evaluate meetings. The executive committee would use the evaluation results when considering the next meeting agenda.
 - Allow 5 minutes at the meeting to write evaluation.
 - Voluntary
 - Rate meeting 1 to 4 plus comments
 - Room for ideas / suggestions for consideration that time didn't allow
 - Rate and comment on process and content
 - Don't include evaluation results in minutes
 - Quarterly or midcourse correction re: how are recommendations working. For example, is attendance at AC and/or task force meetings increasing?
3. Improve communication across committees and task forces.

PROPOSED FLOW OF INFORMATION

Advisory Council	P&A Committee	Health Care and HousingTF	Outreach and Advocacy
Gives suggestions for task force projects	Recommends allocations	Identifies and discusses issues	Takes action on AC and TF recommendations
Reviews recommendations	Recommends Area Plan objectives	Applies expertise	Identifies and discusses issues
	Reports outcomes to AC	Find action / solution	Applies expertise
	Drafts AC strategic plan	Accesses allies	Find action / solution
		Recommends course of action to AC and Outreach & Advocacy Committee	Accesses allies
		Reports outcomes to AC	Recommends course of action to AC
			Reports outcomes to AC